

HONORING THE MEMORY AND
CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
ANTHI POULOS JONES

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, as the 108th Congress draws to a close, I would like my colleagues here in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me in honoring the memory of the late Anthi Poulos Jones, a wonderful woman whose contributions to this institution and to the international community will be long remembered.

A graduate of Windham College with a master's degree and a law degree from American University, Anthi served with distinction as a Capitol Hill professional staff member for a number of lawmakers, including Senators Thomas McIntyre of New Hampshire, Charles Mathias, Jr. of Maryland, John Glenn, Jr. of Ohio, George Brown of Colorado and Representative SCOTT MCINNIS of Colorado. She also served as scholar-in-residence at the Library of Congress.

Anthi was a great champion in behalf of her beloved native Greece, working tirelessly as founder and Chair of the U.S. Committee on the Parthenon; founder and Chair of the Committee on World War II Art Claims; and member of the American Bar Association Steering Committee for the Committee on International Cultural Property. I had the pleasure of working with her when she shared her vast knowledge and research with me in producing legislation calling for the return of the Parthenon marbles to Greece. The treasures were removed and taken to England in the early nineteenth century.

Through her work, Anthi established international friendships and endeared herself to those she met through her kindness, grace and dedication to the causes she espoused.

In addition to her professional accomplishments, Anthi was a devoted wife and mother who took great pride in her family. She is survived by her husband, Wiley Newell Jones; her daughters Helleni Donovan and Catherine Jones; her grandson, Christian Donovan; her father and stepmother, Peter and Lydia Karagianis; and her brother and sister-in-law, S. Peter and Jane Karagianis.

Mr. Speaker, let us honor the memory and celebrate the life of Anthi Poulos Jones, who dedicated her time and talent so generously for the betterment of our world. We miss her tremendously and appreciate so much her valuable contributions as a public servant.

TRIBUTE TO OLATHE, KANSAS,
SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT RON
WIMMER

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 19, 2004

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, last week Dr. Ron Wimmer, who has served the students and parents of the Olathe, Kansas, school district for over forty years—during the last fourteen years as Superintendent of Schools—announced his retirement, effective July 1, 2005.

He has been one of the primary catalysts of the Olathe school district's commitment to excellence, and his retirement will be mourned by all citizens of that community. I am pleased to take this opportunity to pay tribute to Dr. Wimmer's forty years of service to the Olathe school district by placing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD two articles summarizing his achievements that appeared recently in the Olathe Daily News.

[From the Olathe News, Nov. 10, 2004]

WIMMER'S RETIREMENT SURPRISES MANY IN
COMMUNITY

(By Kevin Selders)

Ron Wimmer's announcement he's retiring at the end of the school year came as a surprise to many in the Olathe community and beyond.

Wimmer, who has spent his entire 40-year career in education in the Olathe district, made the announcement public Tuesday after submitting his notice of retirement to Olathe school board president Debby Daniels Oct. 17 and notifying district staff Monday.

An e-mail was sent notifying others of his decision Monday evening.

"Clearly it's disappointing for the school district, but he has provided us with 40 years of service to the school district and the community, so it's hard to argue with him when he's ready to retire," Daniels said. Daniels said the news wasn't released sooner because of the election.

"We didn't want a discussion of Dr. Wimmer's retirement to influence the voters' decision on the school board (issue) one way or the other," she said. Wimmer discussed his retirement individually with board members in the days leading up to last week's board meeting.

Daniels said Wimmer brought up the timing of his announcement during the board's executive session after its meeting on Thursday. The board also discussed when it should get started on the search for the next superintendent, which is considered a personnel issue.

Andy Tompkins, commissioner of education for the Kansas State Department of Education, received the news of Wimmer's announcement during the middle of a Kansas State Board of Education meeting.

Tompkins, who said he's known Wimmer for at least 25 years, said the superintendent's retirement will be a great loss for the district. He said Wimmer is a man of high integrity and the purest motives who has always worked for the best interest of children.

"You're not going to find a bigger fan of Ron Wimmer than me," he said. "I just think he's as good as they come. I have the highest regard for him."

Michael Copeland, mayor of Olathe, said Wimmer has led the school district to become one of the best in the nation. This achievement has, in turn, benefited Olathe in many ways.

"Olathe is one of America's fastest-growing cities for many reasons, but none more important than our excellent schools," Copeland said. "Ron Wimmer deserves much of that credit. He will be missed, but he's leaving the district in great shape. His commitment and dedication to excellence in Olathe, and in particular our children, cannot be understated. He means a great deal to our community."

Frank Taylor, president of the Olathe Chamber of Commerce who served on the school board for 16 years, said Wimmer has been instrumental to Olathe's success as a city.

"Olathe possesses a jewel that sets it apart," he said. "It is a nationally acclaimed

school district that uniquely equips Olathe children for life and draws business and industry to Olathe so effectively that we are one of the fastest-growing communities in the nation. That is Dr. Ron Wimmer's gift to this community."

Diana Wright, a psychologist for the district and former student of Wimmer's, sent him an e-mail Tuesday morning. She said Wimmer was her principal when she was a seventh-grader in 1975.

"I remember you as the warm-hearted, friendly principal who always had a smile on his face," she wrote. "Now as an adult I wanted to let you know what a wonderful impression you made on me as a student."

She went on to tell him how although she was a good student for the most part, she was overwhelmed with authority figures. She said every time she walked by her principal she tried to hide her eyes. "You always went out of your way to say hello and greet me in a warm manner," she said. "It always made me feel like I was special. I'm sure that is how you made all your kids feel."

Betty Carpenter, Wimmer's secretary since he moved to the education center in 1978 as director of personnel for the district, said things are going to be a lot different next year.

She said the next superintendent will have some big shoes to fill.

"He set a lot of good foundations for the future to build on," she said. Carpenter said she could retire as well, but has no plans to just yet.

"I love my job," she said. "Part of that is because of the boss, too."

[From the Olathe News, Nov. 10, 2004]

WIMMER RETIRES AFTER 40-YEAR CAREER

(By Kevin Selders)

As Ron Wimmer, superintendent of the Olathe school district, sat among spectators cheering on Olathe football teams Friday, he realized he knew something nobody else around him knew.

Wimmer, 61, decided to let everyone in on his secret Tuesday as he publicly announced his retirement, effective July 1, 2005.

The announcement comes midway through his 40th year in the district and 14th year as its leader.

"Today I'm very excited and pleased with the response I've received from the staff," he said. "I've had so many touching e-mails from people that I've come in contact with over the last 40 years."

Wimmer denied his decision had anything to do with the recent decision made by voters to change the method of electing school board members.

"I've thought about it for months," he said about his retirement. "I had so many sleepless nights. It just was a tremendous worry for me."

However, he said making the decision and notifying district staff and others Monday brought him peace.

"Last night was the first in many nights where I just slept all the way through," he said.

"Each step has been difficult," he added. "There's just so much commitment that I've had over 40 years. It's hard to believe that I'm at this point, but I feel very good about this decision. I feel it's the right thing to do at the right time."

Wimmer submitted his notice of retirement to Debby Daniels, president of the Olathe school board, Oct. 17.

Wimmer, who was eligible for retirement eight years ago, felt compelled to stay on as superintendent because of continued challenges the district faced, primarily in dealing with its growth.

"There was always some major project," he said.